Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 2 and 4-7 are pending in the application, with claim 1 being the independent claim. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

The claims were originally in the German language. The claims were translated into the English language and filed with this National Phase application. The claims have been amended to place them into conformity with U.S. patent claim practice.

FUNKE et al. Appl. No. 10/579,074 (I.A Date: October 30, 2004))

Conclusion

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Cynthia M. Bouchez Attorney for Applicants Registration No. 47,438

Date: 1 V WY

1100 New York Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20005-3934

(202) 371-2600

663346_1.doc